DANCE

Dance Seminar—1958

THE Seminar on the dances of India, the last of the four Seminars and the first of its kind organized by the Akademi, was inaugurated at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on March 30, 1958, by Dr. P. V. Rajamannar, Chairman of the Akademi. Over 350 artistes representing the various schools and styles of Indian dancing and 40 scholars and critics participated in the Seminar, besides observers from Ceylon, China and Nepal. The Seminar, which lasted for nine days from March 30 to April, 7, 1958, was hailed as a unique event in the annals of Indian dancing.

Dr. Rajamannar, in his opening address, pointed out the existing spirit of rivalry, intolerance and misunderstanding between the different schools of music and dance and pleaded for more sympathy, understanding and appreciation of the various styles that existed in this vast land.

The Seminar's comprehensive and broad-based planning made it possible for scholars and exponents to exchange their ideas and pool their knowledge in various schools and styles of Indian dancing —classical and semi-classical—with their all-possible regional and formalistic variations, highly developed, well-structured folk dances and modern dance dramas.

Demonstrations

The papers read and presented at the Seminar were accompanied by demonstrations by eminent artists which punctuated and stimulated the discussions. The Akademi had arranged public performances of the dances every evening at the capital's open-air theatre at Talkatora Gardens. These performances, in their range and quality, were impressive and unfolded many facets of problems connected with the art of dancing. They also indicated future trends and suggested likely measures for organizing the art in a more effective manner.

The Seminar sessions and public performances attracted many

critics, Pressmen, Observers and thousands of interested visitors from all over the country. Prof. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scinetific Research and Cultural Affairs, also attended the Seminar sessions, and in an illuminating speech dwelt at length on State patronage to arts. The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, gave a reception to the participants at the Prime Minister's residence.

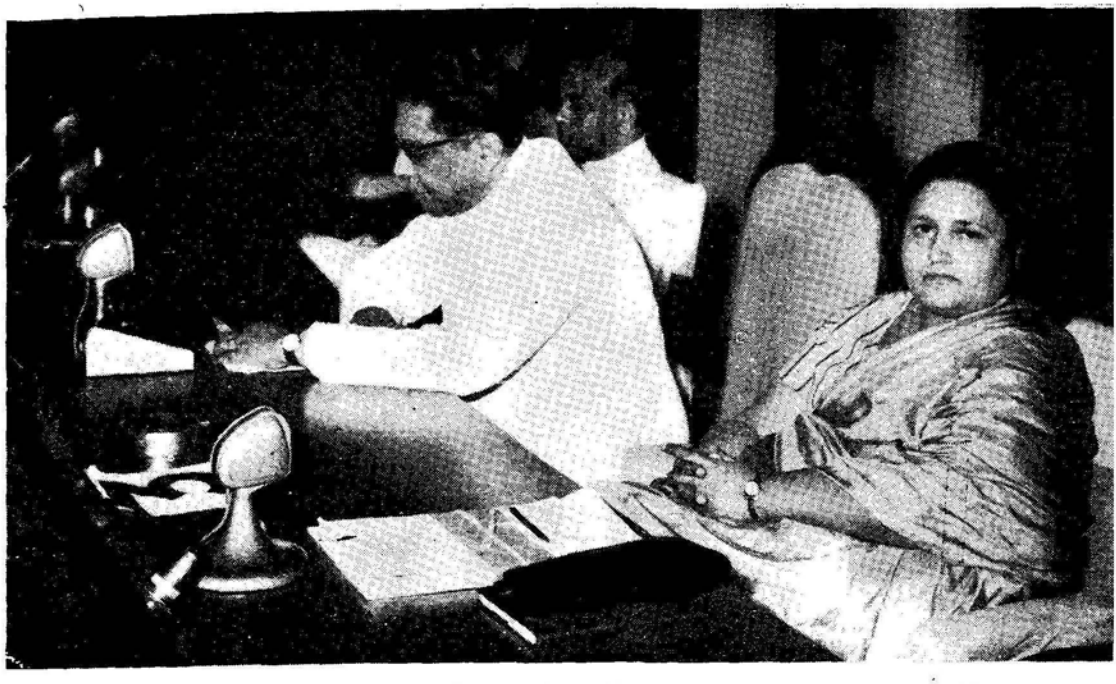
The Seminar made some valuable recommendations for future growth and development of Indian dancing.

Organising Committee :

1. **Dr. V. Raghavan**
2. **Smt. Rukmini Devi**
3. **Shri Hari Uppal**
4. **Shri Uday Shankar**

Papers Read at Dance Seminar

Author	*Subject of the Paper*
1. Dr. V. Raghavan	1. Bharata Natyam 2. Uparupakas
2. Shri U. S. Krishnarao	Modern Trends in Bharata Natyam
3. Shri Kittappa	Jatis in Bharata Natyam
4. Shri Vazhanur Ramiah Pillai	Adavus in Bharata Natyam
5. Shri Nataraj Ramakrishna	Kuchipudi Dance
6. Shri V. Appa Rao	Kuchipudi Dance
7. Shri E. Krishna Iyer	1. Bhagwatmela 2. Folk Dances of South India
8. Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale	Kuravanji Dance-Drama
9. Shri Kunju Kurup	Kathakali
10. Shri Gopinath	Kathakali
11. Shri Atombapu Sharma	Manipuri Dance
12. Guru Amubi Singh	Manipuri Dance
13. Smt. Nayana Javeri	Manipuri Dance
14. Shri M. S. Kallianpurkar	Kathak Dance
15. Shri A. C. Pandeya	Kathak Dance
16. Dr. D. G. Vyas	Kathak Dance
17. Shri Kalicharan Patnaik	Odissi Dance Tradition
18. Shri Shivram Karanth	Yakshagana
19. Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai	Scope for New Developments in Indian Dance
20. Smt. Shrimati Tagore	Dance-Drama of Tagore



Dr. P.V. Rajamannar, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi, delivering his inaugural address at the Dance Seminar. On his right is Dr. V. Raghavan, a Director of Seminar, and on his left is Smt. Nirmala Joshi, Secretary of the Akademi

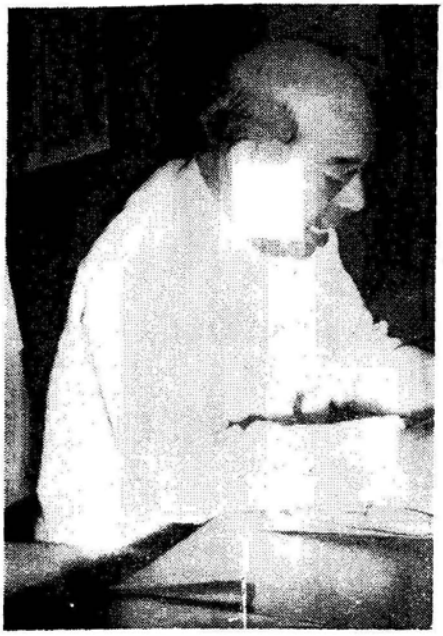
DANCE SEMINAR

Prof. Humayun Kabir addressing the Seminar

Smt. Nirmala Joshi, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi, reading her report at the Dance Seminar

Guru Gopinath addressing the concluding session of the Seminar

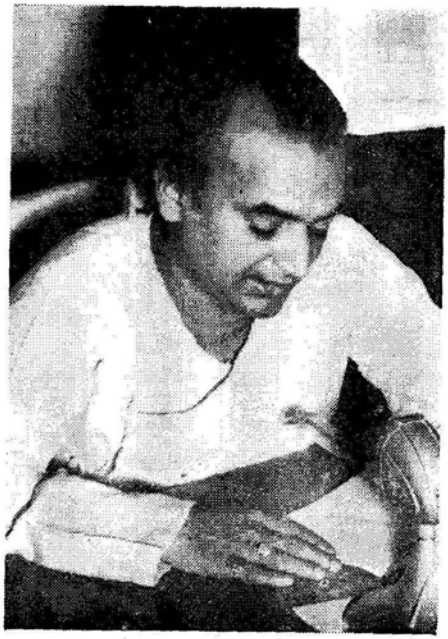
Dance Seminar Organising Committee



Dr. V. Raghavan

Smt. Rukmini Devi

Shri Uday Shankar



Shri Hari Uppal

The Chinese Observer receiving the Akademi's gift from Shrimati Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Vice-Chairman of the Akademi

The Napalese Observer receiving the Akademi's gift

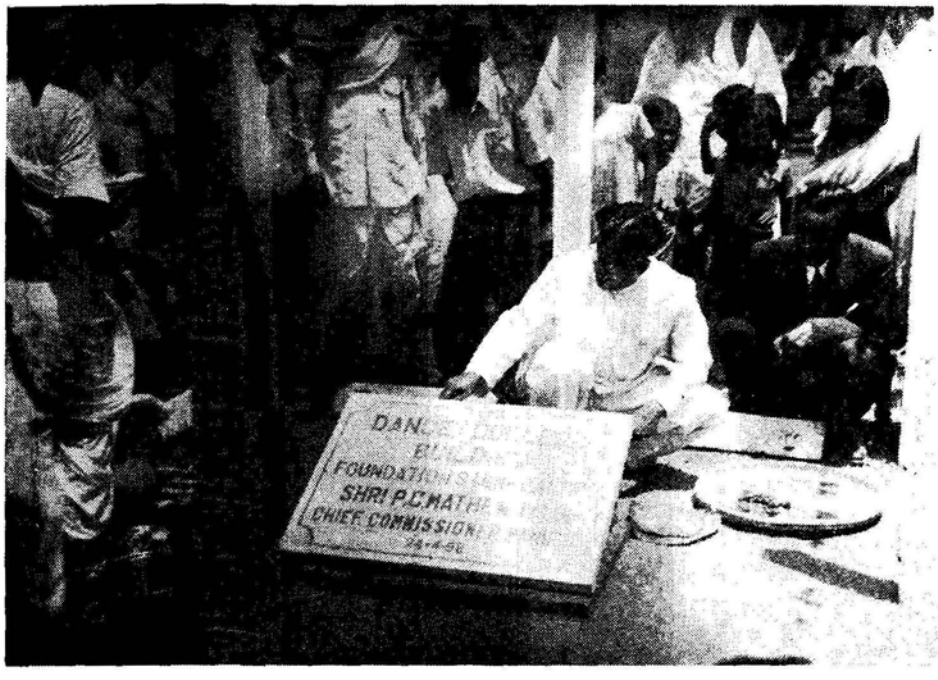
The Ceylon artists receiving the Akademi's gifts

Some of the participants in the Dance Seminar photographed at a reception given in their honour by the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru

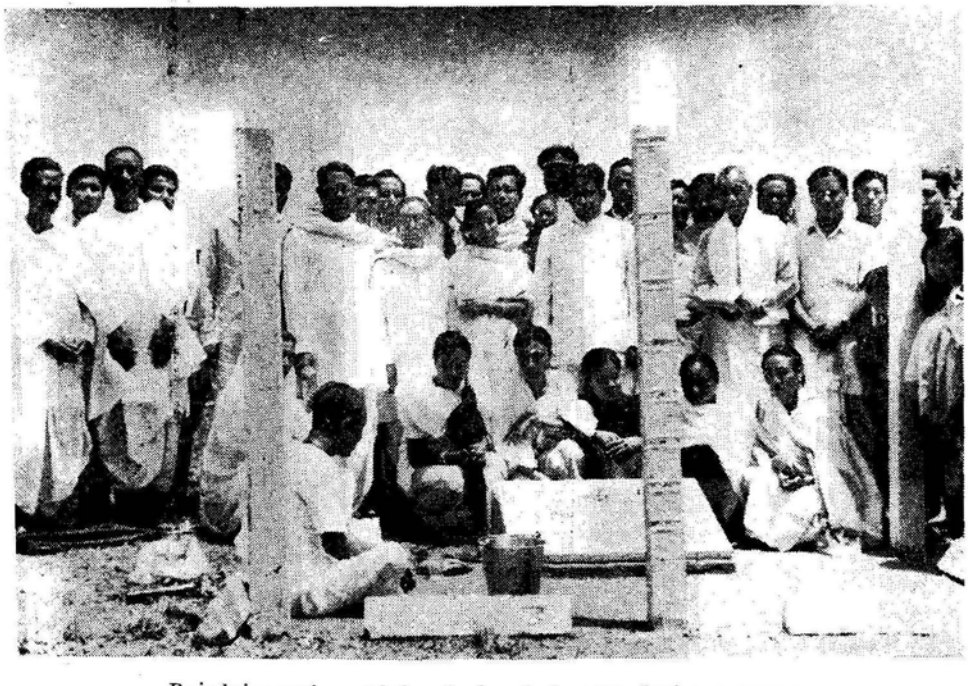
The Prime Minister gave a reception in honour of the participants of the Dance Seminar. Picture shows Shri Nehru in an affectionate embrace with Shri Shambhoo Maharaj

Guru Kunchu Kurup, Guru Amubi Singh and Pandit Atombapu Sharma photographed at a session of the Dance Seminar

Central College of Dance, Imphal



Shri P. C. Mathews, the then Chief Commissioner of Manipur and Chairman of the Central Dance College, Imphal, laying the foundation-stone of the college



Puja being performed before the foundation-stone-laying ceremony

BHARATA NATYAM

→

Smt. T. Balasaraswathi

KATHAK

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Shri Shambhoo Maharaj

21.	Shri Shanti Dev Ghosh	Music in Dance-Drama of Tagore
22.	Dr. M. Neog	Dance Tradition in Assam
23.	Shri Hari Uppal	Dance Traditions in Bihar
24.	Smt. Sudha Desai	Folk Dances of Gujerat and Saurashtra
25.	Shri Devi Lal Samar	Flok Dances of Rajasthan
26.	Shri Suresh Awasthi	Ras and other Folk Dance-Dramas of Uttar Pradesh
27.	Shri Mohan Chandra Upreti	Flok Dances of Kumaun Garhwal
28.	Shri S. S. Paranjpe	Dance Tradition in Maharashtra and Konkan
29.	Shri P.N.K. Bamzai	Dances of Kashmir
30.	Shri C. S. Upadhyaya	Dance Tradition in Nepal
31.	Shri Projesh Banerjee	Folk Dances of North India
32.	Smt. Kapila Vatsyayana	Dance in Indian Sculpture
33.	Shri Vasudeva Sastri	Literary and other sources of Indian Classical Dance
34.	Shri G. Venkatachalam	Indian Dance and its influence on South East Asian Countries
35.	Shri Noeyal Peiris	Kandyan Dances
36.	Smt. Gul Bardhan	The Art of Shanti Bardhan

Dance Seminar Recitals

1. Guru Kunju Kurup, Troupe,
   Laxmi Vilas,
   KOTTAYI,
   Palghat,
   Kerala State.
2. Little Ballet Troupe,
   Periera Hill Road,
   ANDHERI,
   Bombay.
3. Manipur Dance College,
   IMPHAL.
4. Kerala Kala Mandalam,
   CHERUTHURUTHI,
   Kerala State.
5. Darpana,
   AHMEDABAD.

6. Smt. T. Balasaraswathi,
4, Varadarajulu Naidu Road,
EGMORE,
Madras.

7. Bharatiya Kala Kendra,
5-B, Pusa Road,
NEW DELHI.

8. Smt. Menaka Devi Shirodkar,
Ishwardas Mansion,
C-Block, 5th Floor,
Nana Chowk,
BOMBAY-7.

9. Indian National Theatre,
Agakhan Building,
9, Dalal Street,
BOMBAY-1.

10. Satriya Dances of
ASSAM.

11. Kinnar Dancers from
HIMACHAL PRADESH.

12. National Music Association,
Baxi Bazar,
CUTTACK-1.

13. Kumari Padmalochani,
P.O. Box 581,
BANGALORE-2.

14. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,
Chowpatty Road,
BOMBAY.

15. Kalakshetra,
Adyar,
MADRAS.

Manipuri Dance

Kathakali

Kuchipudi

Odissi

Satria Dance of Assam

Chhau Dance of Mayurbhuj

Central College of Dance—Manipur

The Manipur Dance College founded in January, 1954, made its beginning with a token donation made by the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, for the establishment of such an institution in Manipur. The Akademi was financially aiding the college and at a later date in 1957, the Akademi took over the administration of the college to run it as a central institution for imparting authentic training in Manipuri dance and the tribal dances of the region.

In a short lite span of four years, the college recorded all round progress in its various activities. The steady rise in the number of students on the college rolls which touched a new record number of 155 is a sure sign of its growing popularity. The college staff now consists of 11 persons, including three great contemporary Manipuri masters, Guru Amubi Singh and Guru Atomba Singh, Akademi Award Winners, and Guru Anudon Sharma. The college also offers a few merit scholarships to young dance students. The dance troupe of the college visited various parts of the country and gave demonstrations on many important occasions.

The foundation-stone laid in April, 1958, for a new college building marked yet another landmark in its progress.

National Dance Festival—1955

The National Dance Festival following in the wake of earlier national festivals of music and dance was the third of its kind sponsored by the Sangeet Natak Akademi barely within two and a half years of its existence. The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who inaugurated the Festival, expressed great satisfaction at the way the Akademi was progressing.

The entire organisation of the Festival was entrusted to a local institution, the Bharatiya Kala Kendra. The Festival dates happily coincided with the International Industrial Exhibition which accorded an opportunity to many thousands of visitors who came from far and wide to witness the Festival performances.

The Festival commenced with the offering of traditional obeisance to Natraj and continued every evening for six weeks.

Programme of Festival

The programme of the Festival covered a wide cross-section of Indian classical and traditional dancing, ranging from Bharata Natyam to the comparatively little known styles of Chhau and Kuchipudi as also the modern innovation, such as ballet. However,

a wide representation was no end in itself, as care was also taken to have these represented by the foremost living exponents in the respective fields. Thus the great masters of Bharata Natyam, Kathak, Manipuri and Kathakali along with other masters of traditional styles and great ballet composers of today were for the first time brought on the same stage to complete the picture of diversity and open a new window on the great panoramic mosaic that is Indian dancing today.

The participants in the Festival included Smt. Bala Saraswathi and Smt. Shanta Rao for Bharata Natyam ; Guru Kunju Kurup and K. Krishna Nayar for Kathakali and Shri Shambhu Maharaj and Birjoo Maharaj for Kathak, besides great names in the modern ballet world and Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai and a host of other young dancers.

The following is a complete list of the participants, individual artists and groups.

Participants in Dance Festival

1. Shri Shambhu Maharaj	Inauguration and Kathak Dance
2. Smt. Bala Saraswathi	Bharata Natyam
3. Manipur Dance College	Manipuri Dance
4. Smt. Shanta Roa	Bharata Natyam
5. Smt. Rita Chatterjee	Manipuri and Bharata Natyam
6. Smt. Roshan	Kathak
7. Nrityashram, Imphal	Manipuri Dance
8. Guru Kunju Kurup and Troupe	Kathakali Dance
9. Shri Uday Shankar's Troupe	Ballets
10. National Music Association, Cuttack, and Mayurbhanj Dancers	Chhou and Odissi Dance
11. Smt. Hima Kesarkodi and Party	Ballet
12. Kalamandalam K. Nayar and Party	Kathakali
13. Andhra	Kuchipudi Dance
14. Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai and Troupe	Ballet
15. Shri Narendra Sharma and Troupe	Ballet
16. Shri Brij Mohan	Kathak—Lucknow Style
17. Seraikhella, Bihar	Chhou Dance
18. Assam Sattra	Jhumura Dance

Shri Nehru inaugurating the Film Seminar in New Delhi on February 27, 1955

The Prime Minister photographed on his arrival to inaugurate the Seminar